

South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

June 2, 2020, 10:00am – 11:30am

Zoom Call

In attendance:

South Shore Estuary Reserve Office/DOS:

Jeremy Campbell
Sally Kellogg
Rachel Neville
Greg Capobianco
Rebecca Newell
Peter Lauridsen

Attendees:

Lane Smith, TAC Chair, New York Sea Grant
Corey Humphrey, TAC Co-Chair, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District
Allison Branco, The Nature Conservancy
Arielle Santos, Seatuck Environmental Association
Brad Peterson, SoMAS
Carl Lobue, The Nature Conservancy
Cassie Bauer, NYSDEC
Chantel Collier, The Nature Conservancy
Chris Schubert, USGS
Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association
Kathleen Fallon, New York Sea Grant
Kyle Rabin, LINAP
Lou Siegel, NYSMEA
Mark Finkbeiner, NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Margaret Hunter, Hofstra University (substitute for E. Christa Farmer)
Maureen Dolan-Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association
Michele Golden, NYSDEC
Mike Bilecki, NPS
Nicole Maher, The Nature Conservancy
Tom Wilson, Stony Brook University SoMAS

Meeting called to order at 10:02am.

Review/Approve August Meeting Minutes

One edit made to draft minutes.

MOTION: pass April meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

Update/Presentation Introduction from SSER Office

J. Campbell said the Council meeting was postponed and will be rescheduled. Topic of discussion today is the SAV survey. The data has been finalized and we are awaiting a final report from NOAA. The data will be available on the DOS Gateway page or through contacting J. Campbell or R. Newell of DOS.

Presentation by Mark Finkbeiner, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, SAV Mapping Project in the SSER

The mapping project focused on mapping seagrass and determining changes in the Reserve. The most recent mapping effort in 2018 is the second mapping, the first was completed in 2002.

Change Product:

Illustrated gains and losses of four habitat classes: macroalgae, seagrass, tidal marsh, mussel reef. There were changes between habitats, changes between patchy and continuous macroalgae and seagrass beds. Macroalgae and SAV can be intermingled in the field.

Some cautionary elements include: slight seasonal differences between May and June related to biomass and apparent density, overall map accuracy is about 85% for both efforts, there are spatial offsets when comparing aerial imagery, and there may be differences in interpretation.

The large gaps between the mapping events affect the ability to fully understand trends in the system, leaving a need for interim monitoring.

R. Newell presented on a comparison of the data from 2002 and 2018. Data illustrated areas of loss where seagrass was present in 2002, but no seagrass was present in 2018, and areas of gain where seagrass was present in 2018 but not in 2002. Some areas showed persistence of seagrass from 2002 to 2018. These areas offer an opportunity for further study and conservation in the future. Overall, based on the data from 2002 and 2018, there was a net loss of seagrass.

B. Peterson monitors at set sites and have deployed temperature loggers. Could be a good idea to see how that data overlays with the mapping data to determine if there is a correlation between changes in temperature and SAV loss.

J. Campbell said that DOS is looking at the potential for monitoring in between the larger scale flyovers to see how the seagrass beds are changing on an annual basis.

Ideas regarding drones for mapping were discussed. It is beneficial to have a combination of periodic landscape-wide surveys and annual detailed monitoring in a few sentinel locations. Timing of aerial surveys is important: if it is done early there will likely be better water quality providing clearer images, but biomass will be less than if it is done later in the season when water quality will be less favorable, resulting in images that are not as clear.

Other Business and Partner Updates

What is the status of the vulnerability assessment? It was going to be presented at the Council meeting, which was postponed and will be rescheduled.

M. Bilecki: In the National Parks Service Northeast region field monitoring has been cancelled due to Covid-19. NPS is still monitoring priority projects in the park. Beaches have been and are still open and marinas are now open.

K. Rabin: LINAP sent out the newsletter yesterday including a Nitrogen load modeling for several county subwatersheds on the north and south shores.

T. Wilson: Field work will continue, and SoMAS is looking to restart the Research vessel operations in July.

M. Dolan-Murphy: The Nassau County report featured in the LINAP newsletter would be a good presentation to have at a future TAC meeting.

M. Dunn: Long Island Diamondback Terrapin monitoring workshop is being held June 5th from 2-4pm, registration is on the Seatuck website. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is scheduled for June 5th.

M. Dunn: Move to close the meeting.

C. Humphrey seconded motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29am.

DRAFT